511 Way of life. According To all descriptions of the living conditions of the Vepsians at the end of the czarist rule and the beginning of the Bolshevik reign, their life seems to be quite primitive. Kettunen, upon his first arrival at Vepse in 1917, was overcome by the charm of this primitiveness (p. 41): "I at once felt as though I had arrived at the primitive Balto-Finnic imaginary land, where I had sometimes [493] wished to be, at least for a while." There are villages to which one cannot go by carriage in summer, but only on foot; for carrying loads a 511 kind of sleigh (purilazh) is used. Quite a num- 342 ber of houses are without chimneys, so that the smoke can only escape by the doors and windows. Some of the huts are not even rain-proof; Kettunen tells that in a Vepsian house in Pjatina (Russian: Pyatino) they all were bothered by rain at night. There are no beds in the houses, and the people sleep on benches attached to the walls, or on the oven, or even on the floor. During the cold winters the Vepsians, following the Russian model, used to bring young animals into the room. Kettunen sometimes had to share his working room not only with other people but also with calves and poultry.

• [343] The bathhouse is rather a rarity in 515 Vepse. Instead, the people used to bathe in the oven of the dwelling house. When the oven is heated, and some straw spread on its floor, one member of the family carefully crawls into it, feet first, so as not to touch the hot mouth of the oven. The oven is spacious enough for one person to sit. After he is in, he closes

The same post-ice age, early Eurasian race as that in Suomi-Finn- 101
land which once migrated from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with
local variations, had settled south of the eastern part of the Baltic
Sea and of the Finnish ocean bay. As it did in Suomi-Finnland so [144]
here too it received from the 17th century on east Finnish and Volga
Finnish admixtures, but to a much smaller degree. On the other
hand it received much stronger northern Germanic additions. From
this developed the Estonians, designated thus by their neighbors as
the people of the East but in the oldest Russian annals called Chudi,
like all Finns. They themselves formerly only called themselves
maamees, i.e. man of the country, and their people maarahwas,
i.e. people of the country. Today they like to speak of soome
(from som, dark, wet) as their home, in accord with Suomi-Finn-
land. Their territory stretches from Reval to Warro, from Walk to 131
Lake Peipus, with additional land in the area of Vitebsk, "poor land
with meager fields" (Kalewipoeg), full of swamps and forests. Be- 197
cause of their Finno-Ugric language, which incidentally contains
more than 30% Germanic words, the Estonians are still numbered
among the "Mongoloids," but they are neither anthropologically nor
ethnographically connected with them. They are rather completely
European. They are blond, have blue eyes, a tall and strong build. [142]
Dark types are seldom encountered. Once because of the nature of 241
the land dependent on gathering, hunting and fishing, they became
stock-farmers and husbandmen under later influence from Lithuania
and from the Baltic Sea. In all branches of the economy the imple- 412
ments and tools used have preserved their primitive forms and the
materials of the wood age have largely been kept to our day. Fishing
is done with iron hooks and a red drag-rod /Schleppangel/ bound with
wool. A fork-shaped hand-plow /Zoche/ is used for plowing; ropes
are twisted with crude forked branches as in the Celtic West and in
north Germanic Sweden; weaving is done with small hand-weaving 286
tools and with little boards - alongside the pedal weaving frame;
until a short time ago wool was plucked, cleaned with a hatter's bow
/Fachbogen/ which is of exactly the same construction as the cotton
cleaner which is used from Egypt to China and which has been pre-
served in central Europe in the hat factory, strangely enough, only
in this trade. The old conical tent shape is preserved in farm kitchens, [343]
which stand alone or are joined to the bath house. It exists as a cir-
cular foundation of stones and a pole-roof. The present-day square 342
houses, similar to the Latvian and Lithuanian block buildings, and

like them built on the ground or on stone foundations, have low walls, a heavy, high, gabled roof with turrets and wind-boards, cut out windows with glass panes which with rare exceptions have replaced the sliding windows (Figure 11). The house is divided into living room, threshing floor, and bedroom; in the first, which usually has no floor, is the open hearth with the kettle-hook over it. A container of resinous pine chips stands on the window sill or on a corner shelf. Sometimes it is simply inserted without stand between two beams of the wall. The cradle hangs from the ceiling "Linde /or: Linden beams/ had often rocked the cradle with songs" (Kalewipoeg). The beer jugs which resemble northern forms also belong to the household utensils. The Estonian usually settles in individual homesteads which are surrounded by fences of slanting poles. The gates swivel on twisted willow bands. A series of buildings stands here together: barn; kiln /Riege oder Darre/ for drying grain--because otherwise the fall rains would spoil much of it--which in the winter is at the same time living room and kitchen; summer kitchen; bathroom--as in Lithuania people bathe in hot steam which rises from heated stones sprayed with water. The bather lies on the sweat-bench and cools himself by beating himself with a bundle of tender branches of birch leaves which is dipped in cold water.

342 [415] 592 343 ● 515

/21: Illustrations./

/22/ The Estonians.

II.

1. Woman from the island of Ruhnu, which is here represented as the bridge to the north. 2.-7. Women's hats and hair styles. 8.-9. Silver ornamental disks (sõlg, paternoster). 10. Costume from the island of Muhu. 11.-13. Silver ornaments, particularly large breast plates. 14. Implement for twisting rope. 15.-23. Patterns on woven belts (wö). 24. Hatter's bow (tool for cleaning wool). 25. Piece of a runic calendar. 26. Settukesi costume, dress with striped sleeves, blouse with woven inset, bandana. 27. Costume from Muhu. 28. Woman's overcoat of white wool. 29. Blouse with inset. 30. Belt from Hiiumaa made of leather and punched brass[1]

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Nos. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15-23, 25, 26, 28, 30 are in the Museum für Völkerkunde in Lübeck.

[1] [For illustrations, see 1: Karutz, E1 Europe, cat. 116, p. 17a --Analyst]